

DEC 1951 04-68

Approved For Release 2004/03/25 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500480071-8

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Layout of the Customs Free Zone and Quarantine of the Port of Gdansk

DATE DISTR. 1 June 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO

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1. The following information on the Customs Free Zone and Quarantine of the New Port of Gdansk is dated June 1953.

[ Available on loan from CIA Library is [ ] sketch map of the Customs Free Zone and Quarantine of the New Port of Gdansk. This map is drawn to the approximate scale of 1: 1000 meters. The following legend applies. The numbers in the subsequent report text refer to this legend:

1. Pier from Wester Platte closed to the public
2. Small entrance pier
3. Line of new constructions to widen the entrance to the port
4. Gate for workers
5. Quarantine, contagious disease pavilion
6. Observation pavilion
7. Flat of the janitor
8. Laundry, disinfection, etc.
9. Health administration building
10. Warehouses
11. Electric power distribution station for the whole port, transformers
12. Warehouse
13. Czechoslovak warehouse
14. Customs office
15. Gate to the Customs Free Zone
16. Building of the Management of Gdynia-Gdansk Harbors and of the WOP
17. WOP guard-tower
18. Main gate to the Customs Free Zone and footpath with a gate
19. New concrete highway to Harbor Master's office with a tramway
20. Old German monument
21. Warehouses [ ]

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Customs Free Zone (Wolny Obzwar Celny) of Gdansk

2. "The Customs Free Zone (WOC) of Gdansk is situated in the basin facing Westerplatte, at the entrance to the New Port of Gdansk. As one faces the Baltic Sea, it lies to the left. ~~about 1000 m~~
3. "As one enters the New Port from the Baltic there is a small entrance pier (2) at the right. The line of dashes (3) marks the line of new constructions to widen the entrance to the port. The 'experts' think that this construction will cause the waters inside the basin to rise so considerably that the base for tugs and pilot- boats, situated at the outlet of the port, will be unable to operate. The waves in the port are too high already, especially if the wind blows landwards. This construction work is to be finished during 1954.
4. "The Customs Office (Placowka Urzedu Celnego) is situated (14) in the immediate vicinity of the large warehouse (13) called the Czechoslovak Warehouse. There cotton and friable goods are stored. A general warehouse (12) nearby serves for such purposes as loading leather from the Netherlands. Further on is the electric power distribution station with transformers (11), which serves the whole port of Gdansk. This station I consider the vulnerable spot of the port of Gdansk. Another warehouse (10) serves for storing piece goods of all description.
5. "The entire northern dock of the Customs Free Zone has two railway loading platforms, which run along the warehouses, and a number of modern cranes, mostly of Czech origin. The dock itself is made of concrete; it is new and in very good condition. Behind the warehouse buildings, a new, good, concrete highway leads to the Quarantine; at this warehouse end it is not yet quite finished. At the other end this road turns around the basin and connects with a new highway (19) which leads to the Harbor Master's Office. A tramway line operates on this highway.
6. "The southern dock of the Customs Free Zone is disguised by buildings. It has a railway line with loading platforms and several large warehouses (21). It is there that main stocks of the export goods ~~for China are kept~~. There is also storage space for piece goods, glass, sugar, pipes; also electric trolleys, cars and buses, of Czech and Hungarian origin. The southern dock has several permanent cranes which are not very good.
7. "On the shortest, western side of the basin is the building (16) of the Management of Gdansk-Gdynia Harbor - Offices of the Gdansk Sector (Zarząd Portu Gdansk Gdynia, Biura Odcibka Gdanskiego - abbreviated ZPGG). In the cellars of this building, the WOP stores some of its equipment: batteries, etc. WOP office rooms are situated on the ground floor. Between the ZPGG building and the basin, there is a small gate guarded by WOP. Near the southern part of the building stands an observation tower of the WOP (17) from which the entire basin and all its docks may be observed. Further to the south the highway crosses the railway and tramway line. At that point is the main gate to the WOC (Customs Free Zone). This is guarded by the WOP (18). There is a separate small gate for pedestrian traffic beside the main gate.
8. "To the north of the northern dock there are some old German bunkers, ruined German buildings, etc. Further, in the northwestern direction, there is a park. It is separated from the WOC by a fence made of cement slabs which are maintained at both ends by cement poles standing upright. The ends are pushed into openings in the poles. This sort of fence surrounds all the important enclosures in the port. It is topped with barbed wire. Formerly some railway sidelines

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existed in the area north of the WOC, but now they have disappeared.

9. "From the direction of Brzezno, towards the new construction works (3) a provisional, small railway line runs along the seashore. It transports building materials. A small gate for workers (4) sometimes remains opened. It is also quite easy to walk around the fence and the gate, on the stones of the beach, if the tide is low.
10. "In Brzezno there is an old German monument which now has been transformed into a Polish monument. There are also some bunkers, remnants of a destroyed pleasure pier, and a beach to which the public is admitted. There are also some villas and some facilities for holidaymakers.

#### Quarantine

11. "The quarantine is located at the northeastern end of the Customs Free Zone. It is enclosed by a wire-net fence through which there are three entrances. There is a small gate at the western side, near building (7) and a large vehicle gate near building (5). Along the western side of the quarantine runs a side street with a concrete surface. This street joins the main highway. At the eastern side of the quarantine where the highway is not yet completed, near building (9) there is another vehicle gate. I am not quite certain about the shape of the fence-line along the eastern side of the quarantine. I think that behind the building (9) it bends a little westwards and afterwards leads to the north, toward the sea.
12. "There are five buildings within the quarantine enclosure. The sanitary-administrative building (9) holds washrooms, dressing rooms, medical examination rooms, etc. In building (8) there are laundries, disinfecting installations and similar offices. Building (5) is the contagious disease pavilion. Building (6) is the observation pavilion. In the building (7) the janitor has his flat. Between (7) and (8) there is a WOP watch-tower which controls the whole area.
13. "The janitor has two dogs in his charge; during the night they are let loose in the quarantine enclosure. If anything suspicious occurs, searchlights are switched on. They appear to be located by building (5). They light up the whole area. But usually the quarantine is not lit up, and, despite the fence, it is not difficult to enter it from the side of the sea.
14. "The quarantine is to be enlarged up to the new pier (3), where a quarantine dock will be created. The construction work is nearing completion.
15. "The Harbor Health Office (Sanitariat Portu) occasionally uses the quarantine for disinfecting. In 1951, some workers from the Bialystok district were brought to the port. They were directed to the quarantine for disinfection, in order to prevent an outbreak of typhoid fever."

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